AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions.

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~A~~ HF-chondroosteomodulin (COM) polypeptide ~~or derivative thereof having~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1

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  1  ELTEAQRRGL QVALEEFHKH PPVQWAFQET SVESAVDTPF PAGIFVRLEF
 51  KLQQTSCRKR DWKKPECKVR PNGRKRKCLA CIKLGSEDKV LGRLVHCPIE
101  TQVLREAEEH QETQCLRVQR AGEDPHSFYF PGQF
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~~provided that~~ and derivatives thereof, wherein

- the derivatives have a core structure consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and have a length of not more than 150 amino acids; and
- ~~the derivatives have a sequence identity with COM of more than 80%;~~
- the derivatives will activate the receptor GORI-28 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 in a functional test with the FLIPR system, so that a receptor activity is measured which is at least 80% of the receptor activity triggered by COM under the same conditions.

12. (Currently Amended) The COM polypeptide or ~~derivative~~ derivatives of claim 11, selected from the group consisting of: amidated, acetylated, phosphorylated and glycosylated ~~derivatives~~ polypeptides; or having a pyroglutamate at the N terminus~~, in which the amino acid sequence of the derivatives is changed by amino acid substitutions, insertions or deletions~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The COM polypeptide or ~~derivative~~ derivatives thereof of claim 11, further comprising a GORI-28 receptor.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the COM polypeptide or ~~derivative~~ derivatives thereof of claim 11~~, optionally in addition to usual adjuvants and additives~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein ~~said composition~~ the polypeptide or derivative thereof is a lyophilized form ~~taken up with~~ in a solution comprising 3 to 5% (w/v) mannitol.

18. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 17, comprising a galenic dosage form containing an amount of from 300 μg to 30 mg of purified COM per therapy unit in sterile ampoules for dissolution in physiological saline and/or infusion solutions for repeated single injection and/or permanent infusion.

Claims 19-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) The COM polypeptide or ~~derivative~~ derivatives of claim 11, wherein said receptor activity triggered by ~~the~~ a COM ~~polypeptode or~~ derivative ~~thereof~~ is greater than the receptor activity triggered by COM.

26. (Cancelled).